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Jasmine swallowed hard as his words hit her. 1

How was she to respond to that.

She began to stutter and then he snapped at her so bad that she jumped.

Everyone else in the room jumped.

"WHO ARE YOU?!" He barked like the wolf that he was.

"Because that letter says that you are not the daughter of Luna Maria." He said. "I wanted Alpha Bale's daughter. His prize as special and spoiled daughter and that letter says that you are not her so who are you?!" 1

She began to shake, her entire body was vibrating.

This was too much!

This was not how she had wanted it to happen. 1

She had wanted to be the one to tell him but it had come out blown this way.

Then the doors were opened just before she was about to speak.

She turned and saw that it was three members

of the wolf council.

Chills went down her spine.

They went past her and headed straight to face Xaden.

"Good. You all finally arrived." Xaden said to them.

He had called members of the wolf council here too?

She had not expected this.

What was going to happen to her now?

Usually when they called members of the wolf council into an issue it was very trivial and of the most importance. 1

Then he turned back to her.

When he turned to face her, he did not look at her rather he would look to the left or right.

But he would not hold eye contact.

"You seem surprised to see them." He said to her. "What you and your family have done is commit one of the biggest blunders and disobedience of the rules of the wolves." 1

It was not just her now, it was her father, her stepmother, step sister, the entire pack.

"Now tell me, who the fuck are you?" He asked her again. "And speak loud enough so everyone can hear you."

She swallowed. "I...I am.... Alpha B... bale's daughter."

There was uproar in the crowd.

Whispers of her being a liar and being a deceiver in the dying moment of being caught.

She started to explain, but her voice was lost in the uproar.

"Silence," Xaden instructed, and they all instantly obeyed.

She swallowed hard and said. "I am truly the daughter of Alpha Bale. My mother was a servant in the pack. She died giving birth to me, and I was born before any of his children. I am a bastard."

There were some more whispers but this time not so loud.

Xaden waved his hand, and they all went quiet.

"But you were not the one I asked for," Xaden said. "I had strictly requested for Alpha Bale and Luna Maria's daughter. In fact, no one knows that Bale had a bastard."

The way he said it made him flinch as if his words had slapped her.

"I was not." She managed.

"And yet you came." He said through gritted teeth. "And yet you chose to deceive me. You chose to pretend like you were the one I wanted." 2

She immediately dropped down to her knees. "Please, my lord. I had no say in the Matter. My father was the one who told me to come. He and Luna Maria."

She was crying now, pleading with him.

Fiona herself was on the verge of tears. 1

"Let us say that you were held ransom by your parents. That you were forced to deceive me or face a severe punishment when you came to the pack, why did you not tell me the truth?" He asked.

Her mouth dropped.

How was she going to explain to him the emotional and traumatic hold her father had on her?

How was she going to explain to him that even though her father was miles away, she had been

so scared of him that she would have done anything for him?

He Instilled great fear into her and treated them like a riff raft to the point that when he finally saw her as his daughter, she was willing to do just about anything for him.

How could she explain that?

He would simply say she was looking for an excuse.

"Let us say that you did not know me." He resumed. "And you were afraid of the Alpha who had taken you from your home. You got used to me. You knew me better. All this

The time you knew, and you chose not to tell me. You chose to choose every day and lie to me. And be an imposter. Take me for a fool!"

Everyone felt it in their bones.

His rage, his anger, and then fear of him.

"I wanted to tell you." She broke down into more tears. "I was going to tell you, I swear it. But every single time that I tried to, I just could not bring myself to it."

"You chose to lie to me. It was a choice you made by your own self." He said. 1

She frantically shook her head.

"N...no, please. I swear I did not want to lie to you." She wept. "I did want to tell you. I tried to tell you. Even last night, I tried to tell you."

Those words brought a chill silence into the room.

They all knew that he slept with her sometimes, but the way she had stayed it.

That she had tried to tell him last night, but she had been unable to indicated how intimate they were. 1

Jasmine realized that she had only made him look foolish in front of his entire congregation and the wolf council.

She held her tongue and managed to press down on the tears that were fighting to come.

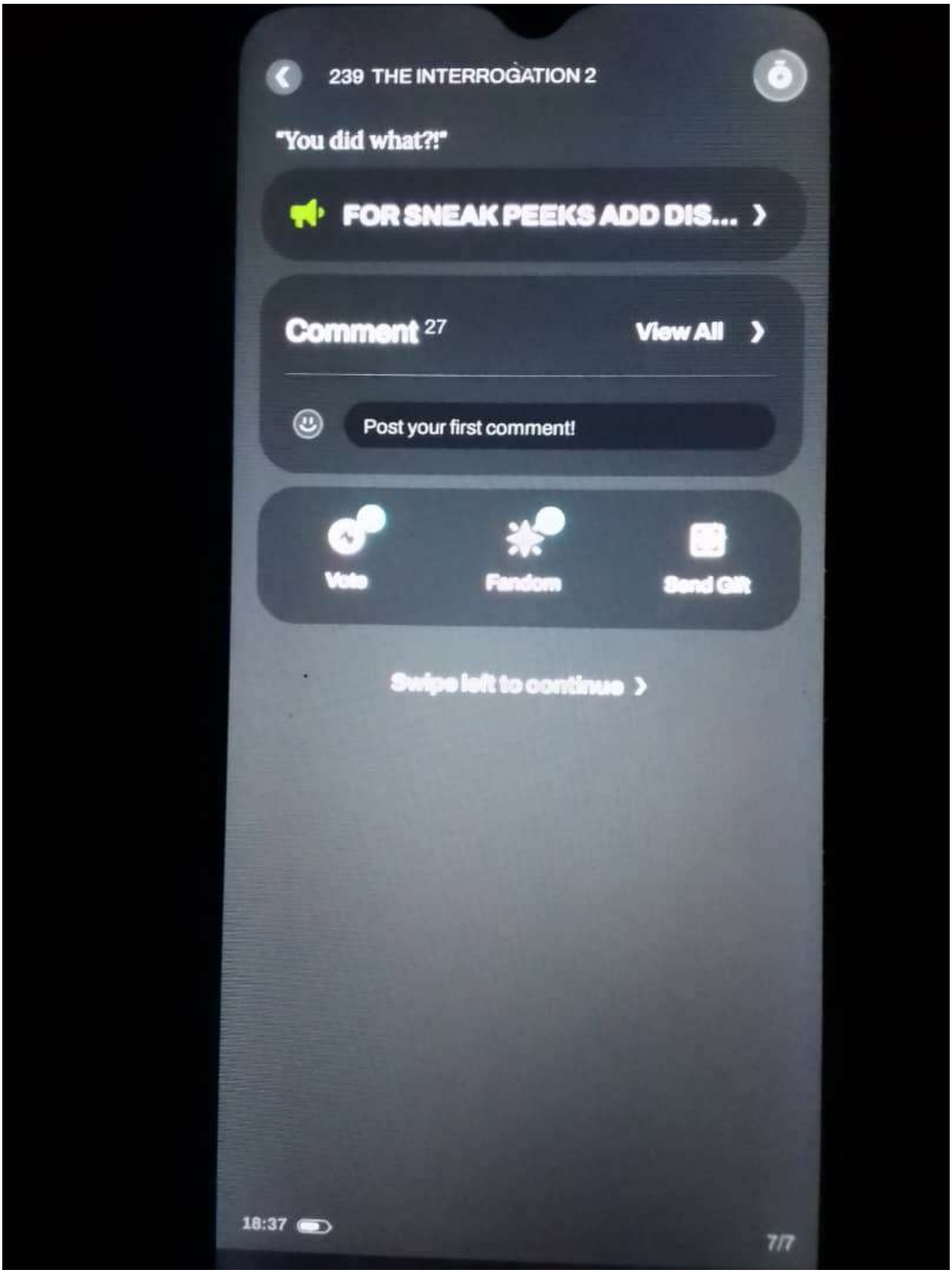
At that point, Fiona started to come in.

"Xaden, please." She said. "Do not be so hard on her."

"You do not have the right to speak here!" He snapped at her.

"It was not her fault I was the one who told her not to tell you!" Fiona said. 2

The room was quiet.


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"You did what?!"
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